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# Loading Arm Replacement Project Lessons Learned

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# Loading Arm Replacement Project

## Lessons Learned

### Original Arms

### Replacement Arm Design and Fabrication

- Factory Inspection / QC

### Transportation

### Construction

- Removal of Existing Arms
- Replacement Arm Installation
- Hydraulics and PLC Controls

### Operability Improvements

### Acknowledgments



# Existing Loading Arms - DCMAAs

## • Wharf Overview

- Largest marine oil terminal on west coast
- Import refinery crude and feedstocks
- Export products
- Constructed in 1940s
- Modernized in 1970s/1990s
- Dated berthing configuration

## • Marine Loading Arm (MLA) History

- Double counterweight marine loading arms (DCMA)
- Installed in 1973
- Refurbished from other facility
- 66% Availability (Berth 1 and 4)
- Obsolete design



# New Loading Arms – Design Drivers

## 1. Structural Loading

To avoid additional pile driving, CVX used existing loading arm foundations.  
Decision: Selected Rotating Counterweight Marine Arms (RCMAs) instead of Double Counterweight Marine Arms (DCMAs) to reduce equipment weight

## 2. Current velocity < 1.5 kt

Decision: No Emergency Release Couplings (ERCs) required, which would have dramatically increased the structural pile driving necessary at each berth due to their weight.

## 3. Manufacturer selection

Chevron competitively bid loading arms with 3 different manufacturers.  
Decision: Went with same manufacturer of existing arms

## 4. Fabrication / Installation Schedule

Timing of planned Berth 4 shutdown (45 days, 4Q2016) drove phased production of loading arms by berth, enabling Chevron to incorporate lessons learned into the arm design, transport and installation at the subsequent berths.

## 5. MOTEMS compliant for sea level rise accommodation (16" by 2050)



# Replacement Arm Design and Fabrication

## Lessons Learned

### Design

Use existing foundations

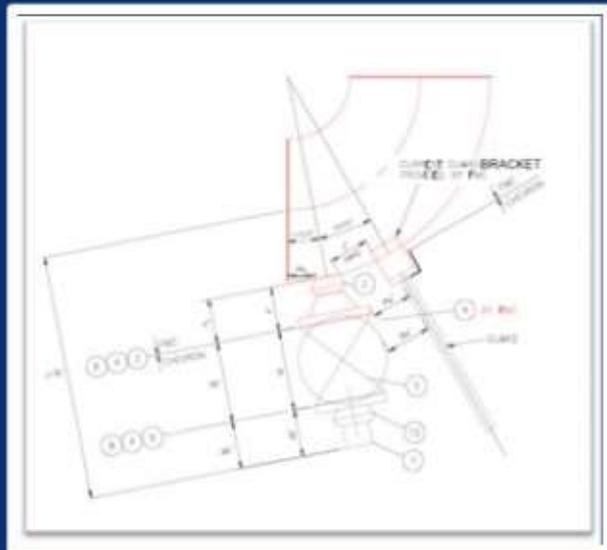
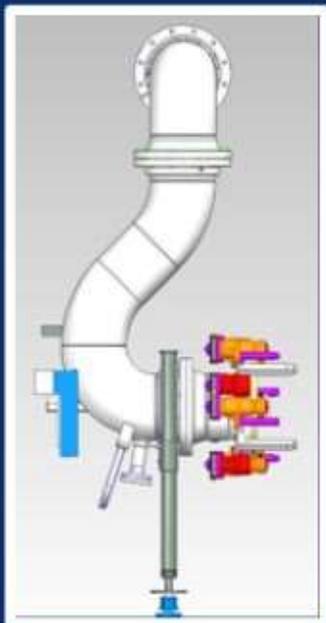
- RCMA weighs less than DCMA

RCMA has greater operating envelope

- Can accommodate more modern vessels

RCMA needs greater footprint to operate

- Structural extension of Berth 3 (3 ft.)
- Addition of Berth 1 drip pan



Vendor-proposed low point drain (left) vs. CVX "lowest point" drain (above).

### Quality

Location of nozzles on RCMA

- Not true low point → up to 2 gallons of product
- Miss-alignment of inboard arm outlet nozzle
- **Result:** Additional verification of critical dimensions by 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspector

Bolt pattern on cover plate interfered with ring seal

Inconsistent supplier torque values & torque procedures

- Leaky joints and loose fittings
- **Result:** Retorqued joints prior to installation

Supplier did not follow their own QC procedure

- **Result:** Hired 2 additional Quality Engineers to support project

### Additional Inspection

Retained expeditor for B4 RCMA to keep schedule

100% vs 20% x-ray of full penetration welds

- Paid premium to supplier to prioritize inspection to meet schedule
- City of Richmond weld inspector onsite to inspect structural welds
- Supplier became CoR approval fabricator for this job only.

Positive Material Identification (PMI)

# Transportation

## Schedule-driven choices and lessons learned

### Needed 6 week (max) transit from Europe to USWC:

- Truck from Sens, France → Zeebrugge, Belgium
- Shipping: Zeebrugge → Pt. Hueneme using Ro/Ro
- Truck from Pt. Hueneme → Alameda
- Barge from Alameda → RLW by barge

### Five (5) lifts per arm.

### Lessons learned as a result of Berth 4:

- Contract logistics coordinator with international experience.
- Marine surveyor (inspector)
- Reinforced crating with double cross braces
- Shock watch
- Tie-down strap angles verified for trucking
- Additional padding/carpet at points of contact.



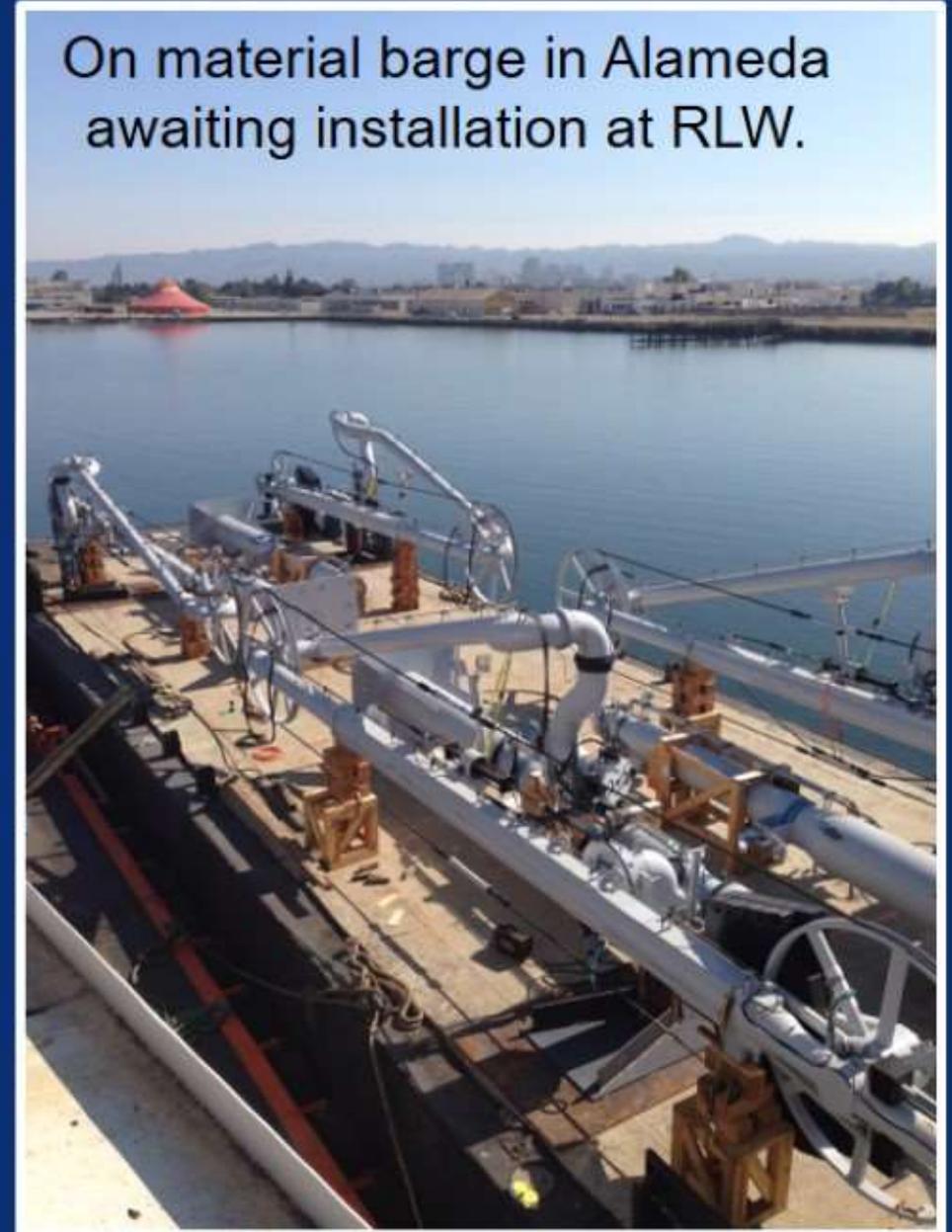
# Transportation

## Schedule-driven choices and lessons learned

Transferring to a trailer at Zeebrugge.



On material barge in Alameda awaiting installation at RLW.



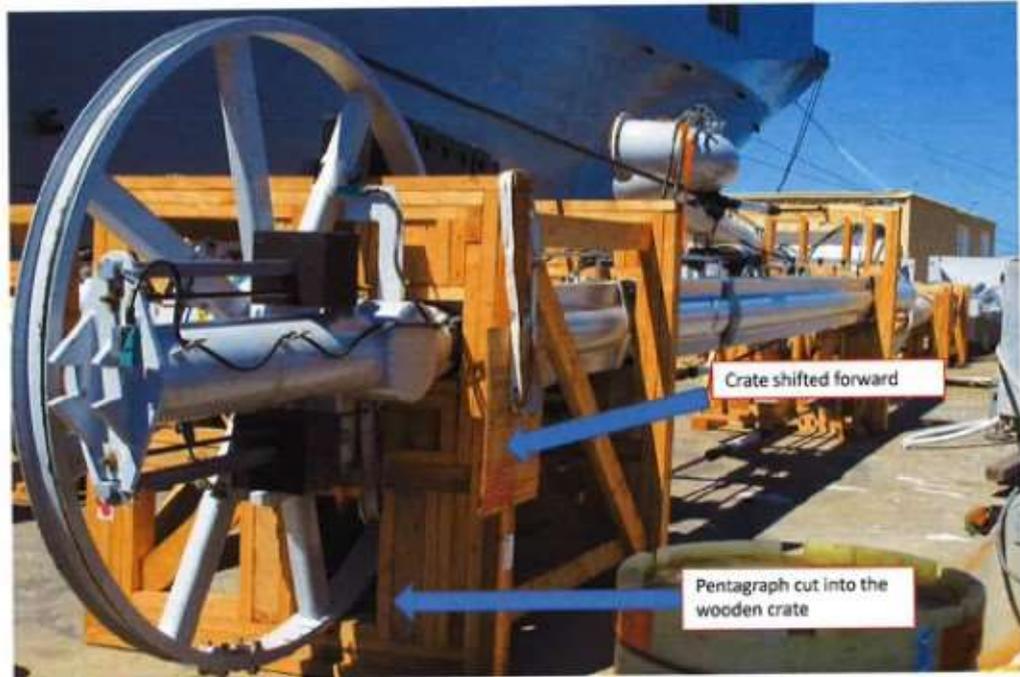
# Transportation

## Schedule-driven choices and lessons learned

### Chevron Delivery of Berth 4 Arms

RCMA 2

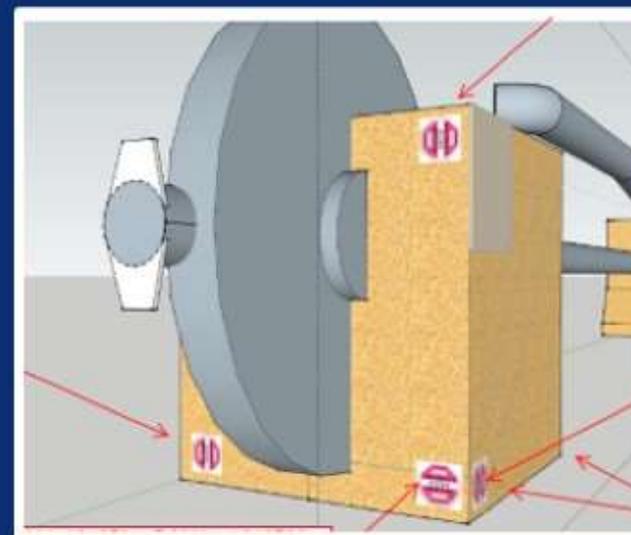
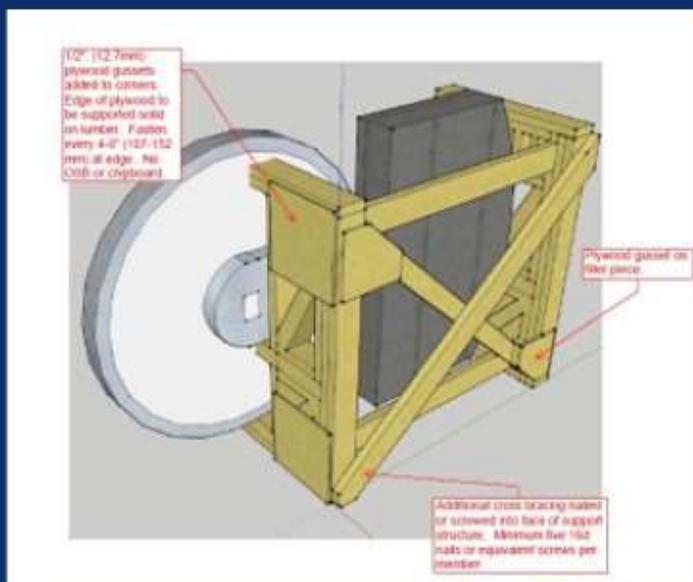
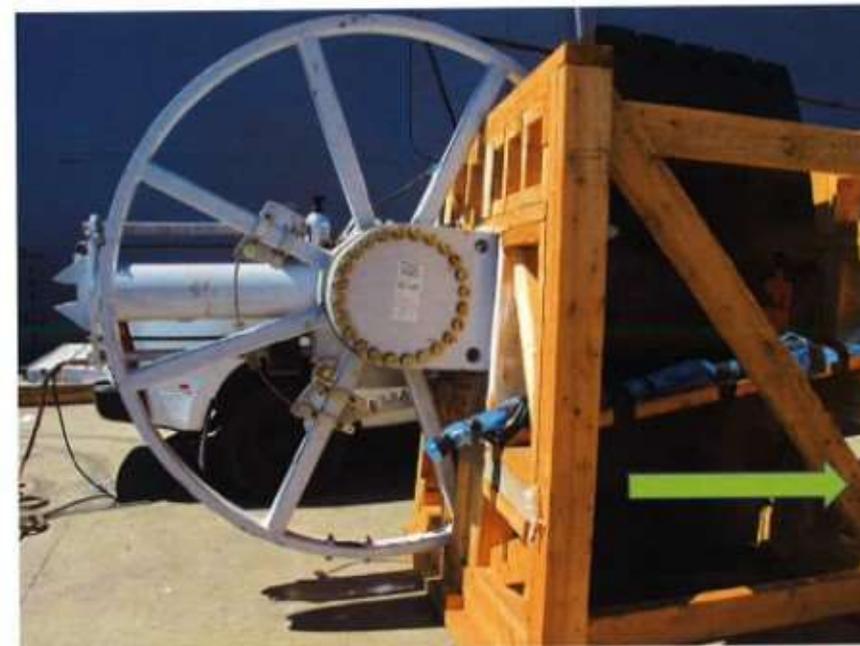
The arm showed up with the pentagraph sitting on the wood blocking below indicating that the crate shifted forward during transit. After un-crating, no damage to the pentagraph was observed.



### Chevron Delivery of Berth 4 Arms

RCMA 5

Crate failed moving laterally.



# Construction – Execution Planning

## Phased Approach – Berth 4, then 3 and 1.

### Pre-Shutdown Work

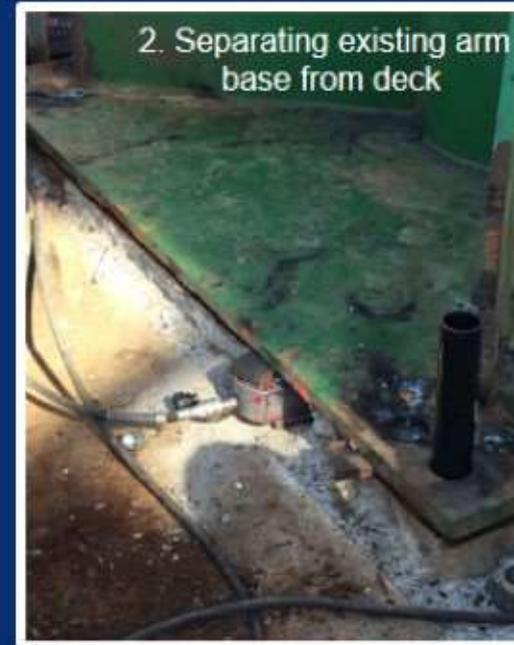
- Structural
- Removed OOS DCMA's
- Rerouting of utility lines

### Berth 4 – 45/60 day shutdown

- Continuous window enabled troubleshooting.
- 4 arms removed during shutdown.
- Structural work done before shutdowns began.

### Berth 3 and 1 – Done in parallel

- 3-5 day natural window outages vs. 10 day planned shutdowns
- 2 arms removed at a time, 2 arms set in position.
- Compressed schedule
- Friday / Saturday work as needed.
- Electrical / tubing work completed as SimOps.
- Mobile hydraulic oil pre-filter/testing lab on site
- Arm installation timeframe reduced by 3 days per arm.



# Construction

## General

General contractor attended training and FAT at supplier

Non-Shutdown work at various berths are worked in parallel to

- Minimize down time or demobilization from RLW
- Maintain dedicated crew

Phase approach to allow incorporation of lessons learned from Berth 4 into Berth 3 and 1



Base riser lift at Berth 4

# Construction

## Removal and Installation of MLAs

B4 has dedicated continuous outage window (45 Days Planned vs 60 Days Actual)

- OOS DCMA was removed during pre-work
- Temp support of operating platform

B1 and B3 are in operation during construction

- Use “natural windows” to remove DCMA during pre-work
- Working Fridays and/or Saturdays as needed
- SimOps: electrical and tubing work
- Each outage is planned for removal and installation 2 MLAs

MLAs needs to be pre-balance before installation



Lifting and setting outboard arm – Berth 4

# Construction – Hydraulic System

## New Hydraulic System Design

- Isolated hydraulic circuit (CVX design) to minimize down time during repair
- Two layers of protection to prevent operating arm by mistake

## Lessons Learned

- LOTO MLAs that are not in operation
- Mobile hydraulic lab to clean hydraulic oil to NAS class 9
- Biodegradable hydraulic fluid
  - Shipped to loading arm supplier for Factory Acceptance Test



Hydraulic manifold to isolate circuits on arm, enabling maintenance to drain one hydraulic cylinder at a time, versus entire arm or common header.

# Construction – Controls

## New Control System

- Remote Controlled (preferred)
- Local Control Panel (LCP)
- Selector Valve Assembly (SVA)

## Lessons Learned

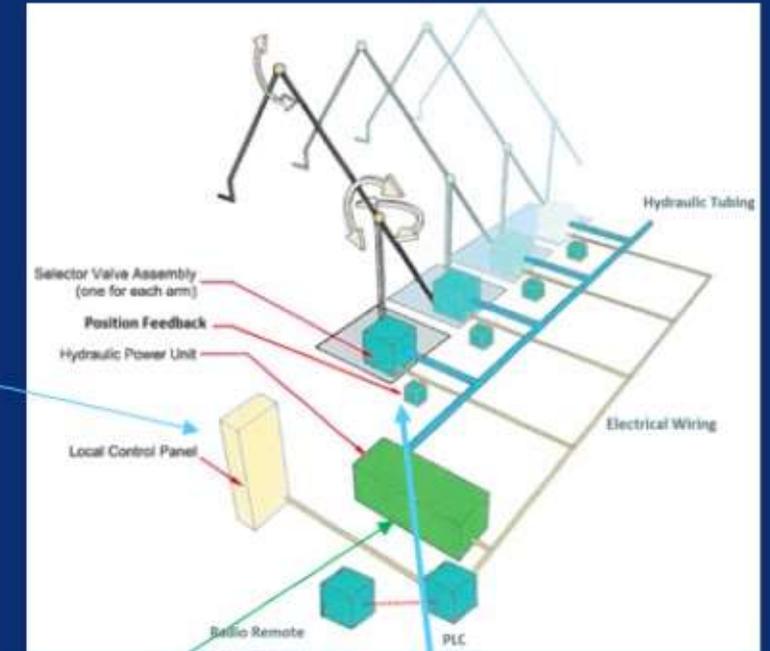
- Added universal remote (3 Berths)
- Miscommunication between supplier and sub-vendor caused frequent drop of radio signal
- Supplier did not test out all functionality of remote controller
- Added additional test functions on LCP



Radio Remote



Local Control Panel



Hydraulic Power Unit



Selector Valve Assembly

# Operability Improvements



## Improved Efficiency Beyond Expectations

45 minute connection time reduced to 7 minutes.  
Less reliance on ships crew for connection validation.

## Operator

One operator needed (on board vessel) for connections; no longer requires two operators.

## Safety

No wrenching or crow bars required for connections.

Improved Safety in Designs (SID).

## Predictability

Consistent slewing distance (8.4 feet) per arm.



# Berth 4

Before



After



# Accomplishments

- 18 critical lifts over water
- Installed and commissioned Berth 4 MLAs (4 total) in 4Q16
- 87k+ Safe Construction Hours
- Ahead of schedule - Optimized installation of MLA by advancing schedule
- Within Budget - Potential \$3MM saving in construction cost and overall capital budget



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